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COUNTRY East Germany SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Kindel Troop Training Grounds 50X1-HUM

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 23 July 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. At 11:30 a.m. on 2 July 1953, 20 x 122-mm guns fired at practice targets in the Kindel training area. On 3 July, 40 T-34 tanks fired at practice targets while driving. Subsequently, a simulated attack against an infantry unit which was encircled and captured.<sup>1</sup> On 4 July, troops and materiel loaded at the Eisenach railroad station at 10:15 a.m. and leaving toward Gotha at 6:40 p.m. included: 17 trucks, 8 trailers, 4 motorboats, 24 pontoons, 1 sedan 3 boxcarloads of logs, 54 amphibious vehicles and 4 boxcarloads of troops and billeting equipment. About 500 troops were seen with the shipment.

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A second shipment loaded in Eisenach and leaving toward Gotha at 9 p.m. included 22 trucks

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2 sedans

12 infantry guns (sic, presumably mortars), 5 large and 12 small pontoons and billeting equipment. At 5:30 p.m. on 7 July, a troop train was loaded with 28 trucks, 4 sedans, 2 radio trucks, 8 jeeps, 3 field kitchens, 2 heavy mortars, 8 mortar carriages, and billeting equipment. The train included 19 boxcars occupied by 35 officers, 12 women and about 750 troops, mostly wearing red-bordered black epaulets and some black-bordered crimson epaulets, and left toward Gotha at 10:15 p.m.

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On 6 July, motor vehicles

were seen en route to the training grounds. all German craftsmen employed at the installation had been dismissed.<sup>2</sup>

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2. At the Sophienbad in Eisenach, laundry from the troop training grounds was delivered as previously. Motor vehicles seen en route to the training area

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3. on 17 and 18 June, numerous units left the Kindel troop training grounds by road. Beginning 26 June, the troops started returning. On 17 June, there was no strike in Eisenach, however, martial law was declared there in the afternoon by Captain Kurentsov (fnu), commander of the temporary headquarters. At 5 a.m. on 18 June, at least 14 trucks, occupied by troops wearing steel helmets and armed with submachine guns; 4 jeeps, and 1 armored scout car were near the komendatura. During the period of martial law from 17 to 26 June, these vehicles were either in front of the komendatura or patrolled the town. Jeeps occupied by a colonel and a lieutenant colonel

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were identified. After martial law had been lifted, the trucks were no longer observed in the town. Jeeps and armored scout cars were seen there until 29 June. 3

1. Comment. Beginning early July, intensive training activity was also observed at other troop training grounds. The number of tanks roughly corresponds to the equipment of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. No other tank units are stationed at Kindel.

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2. Comment. The majority of the motor vehicle observed during the loadings belong to the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. It is fairly definitely believed that the 67th Engr Bn, reinforced by other elements of the division, was entrained for Dessau. On 3 and 4 July, three shipments of engineer units of the Eighth Gds Army were dispatched toward Thuringia from Dessau. It is believed that, as in 1952, engineer units were rotated to Dessau-Aken.

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3. Comment. Available information indicated that, except for the details of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div employed in Eisenach, no other troops were detached from the Kindel troop training grounds.

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